

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Continuous method for producing a printed retroreflective material for making articles of clothing, said articles of clothing having ~~aesthetic look, good laundering durability and high visibility corresponding to specific requirements~~ for a minimum coefficient of retro-reflection ( $\text{cd/lx.m}^2$ ) indicated by European Standard EN 471/1994 (related to high visibility warning clothing) and/or EN 13356/2001 (related to visibility accessories for non-professional use), said method comprising ~~the steps~~ of:

- (a) providing a carrier sheet with an adhesive on the carrier, thereby forming a support layer;
- (b) partially embedding onto the adhesive a monolayer of transparent glass microspheres having a refractive index between about 1.4 and about 2.7, to a depth ~~averaging around~~ between about 35-40 percent of their average ~~diameters~~ diameter, thereby forming a web material;
- (c) coating a thin layer of a two-component polyurethane resin;
- (d) applying a specularly reflective mirror of aluminum by vacuum deposition;
- (e) printing a non-etchable transfer pattern onto the aluminum layer, thereby forming a transfer image;
- (f) passing said web material through a demetallization bath of sodium hydroxide and a washing station to remove etchable, non-protected surface and drying the web;
- (g) applying, by a vacuum process, two layers of dielectric mirror;
- (h) coating a polyurethane binder layer and laminate with a textile base;
- (i) stripping away the support layer.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier sheet has an heat-softenable adhesive layer on the carrier.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the carrier sheet is an auto-adhesive layer supported by a polymer backing.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyurethane resin is a reaction product of a polyester polyol having a number molecular weight of at least 2,000 and a polyisocyanate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the dry polyurethane resin on the glass beads microspheres is less than about 3 g/sqm of dry substance.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyurethane resin used for coating the glass web material is a water-dispersion and the curing agent is an aliphatic polyisocyanate.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polyurethane resin used for

coating the ~~glass web~~ material is a polyester polyurethane polyol isocyanate polymer in solvent and the curing agent is ~~a polyester polyisocyanate~~ an aromatic polyisocyanate or a mixture of polyisocyanate with melamine resin.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transfer image used for printing the coated microspheres is made with a resin non-etchable ~~by NaOH resin.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 8, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~thermoplastic~~ resin used ~~for the printed base~~ is a polyurethane, a polyamide or a ~~polyacrilie~~ polyacrylic polymer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resin is supported on a base ~~transfer non-etchable printing which~~ is a release paper, a polypropylene or polyester foil.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 10, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~transfer printed~~ base is ~~Decotrans®, manufactured by Miroglio, Italy~~ a polypropylene printed film.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the non-etchable transfer pattern is ~~replaced~~ formed by a silk-screen printing or roll printing on the reflective aluminum layer.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): Method for manufacturing a printed retroreflective material according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the transparent dielectric mirror is a layer of aluminum sodium fluoride ( $\text{Na}_3\text{AlF}_6$ ) overlaid by a layer of zinc sulfide ( $\text{ZnS}$ ).

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended by replacing reference to Claim 1 with the text of original Claim 1, since Claim 1 has been changed and may change in the future.

Claim 1 has been amended by deleting subjective and redundant language, and by inserting antecedent basis where applicable.

The dependent claims have been amended to be consistent with the above-discussed amendment to Claim 1, by replacing "characterized in that" with the equivalent --wherein--, and as supported in the specification. See for example the specification at page 6, first full paragraph, as support for the amendment to Claim 7, and page 10, line 1, as support for the amendment to Claim 11.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application.